

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Office of the Chief Financial Officer**

Natwar M. Gandhi  
Chief Financial Officer



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Linda W. Cropp  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

**FROM:** Natwar M. Gandhi  
Chief Financial Officer

**DATE:** November 3, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement: "Juvenile Flotation Device Requirement Amendment Act of 2003"

**REFERENCE:** Draft Legislation as Introduced - No Number Available

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2004 through FY 2007 budget and financial plan because implementing the proposed legislation will not require additional staff or resources. The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) risks losing \$528,700 in federal funding if the proposed legislation is not implemented to bring the D.C. Municipal Regulations in conformity with accepted national standards.

**Background**

The MPD Harbor Patrol and the United States Coast Guard conduct operations with equal jurisdiction on the tidal Potomac River and Anacostia River waterways. The proposed legislation will change the D.C. Municipal Regulations so that boaters will not only have to have a functional and certified personal flotation device(s) (PFD) onboard, but require those who are under 13 years of age to wear them under certain circumstances. The proposed legislation will make the District compliant with standards that are generally accepted nationwide.

**Financial Plan Impact**

The MPD Harbor Patrol conducted over 665 vessel inspections in CY 2002, which resulted in the issuance of citations for 1,269 violations of District watercraft regulations. As of August of 2003, the MPD Harbor Patrol conducted 604 vessel inspections resulting

in 695 violations of watercraft regulations. The MPD Harbor Patrol expects the new regulations to improve public safety.

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2004 through FY 2007 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed regulations. The MPD Harbor Patrol will require no additional staff or resources to implement the proposed regulations. New regulations and patrol procedures will be incorporated into existing regulations and waterway operations.

The table in Figure 1 presents the annual funding amounts that are at risk if the District fails to implement this measure.

*Figure 1.*

<b>Impact to the Financial Plan</b>				
(\$ in millions)				
<b>FY 2004</b>	<b>FY 2005</b>	<b>FY 2006</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>	<b>4 - Year Total</b>
<b>\$0.5</b>	<b>\$0.5</b>	<b>\$0.5</b>	<b>\$0.5</b>	<b>\$2.0</b>

The District receives \$528,700 in federal revenue to patrol and protect the District's inland waterways. These funds are granted from the Coast Guard Recreational Boating Safety initiative and are applied for every year. If the proposed regulations are not implemented, the District risks losing these federal funds. Most states with inland waterways have adopted similar regulations to those that are being proposed for the District.

*The Chief Financial Officer's legislative fiscal analysis is prepared by the Special Projects and Fiscal Analysis Administration in the Office of Research and Analysis. Contact us at 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 400S, Washington D.C., 20001 or view our work on-line at <http://cfo.dc.gov>.*